

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FOR: PASS AID STATE EA/PHL ONLY USIA/EA CINCPAC USIA ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - AUGUST 20-26, 1976

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

BEGIN LOU

1. PLUGGING THE DIKE-THE ANDERSON MEMO LEAK GAVE THE LOCAL PRESS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAMATIZE PRESIDENT MARCOS' STANCE AS A SELF-RELIANT THIRD-WORLD LEADER, WEANED FROM THE AMERICANS. IT ALSO PROVIDED GRIST FOR THE EVERY HUNGRY MILL OF ANTI-AMERICAN COLUMNIST SUCH AS "DOROY" VLAENCIA AND ERNIE GRANADA. IT WAS A SERIOUS BLACK EYE FOR THE U.S. AT A CRITICAL TIME, BUT THE QUICK REPUDIATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOLLOWED BY SENATOR MANSFIELD'S RESOLUTION WERE HELPFUL IN MODERATING THE OUTCRY.

CHRONOLOGICALLY, THE DENIALS REACHED THE PRESS ALMOST AT THE SAME TIME THE ORIGINIAL NEWS OF THE LEAK APPEARED AND IT WAS TWO DAYS LATER THAT THE EDITS AND COMMENTS POURED FORTH. THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS TOURING THE MINDANAO DISASTER AREA DURING THIS TIME MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE LONG REACTION TIME.

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PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD ALREADY HINTED THAT HE INTENDED TO GO IT ALONE ON THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF PROGRAM AND FIELDING QUESTIONS ON THE LEAK DIPLOMATICALLY, AS DID HIS OTHER POLICY SPOKESMEN.

PRESIDENT MARCOS, IN REACTION TO THE ANDERSON MEMO:

"BUT WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD EVERYBODY THAT THE AMERICAN OFFER OF HELP IS NOTED, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL, BUT RIGHT NOW WE DON'T NEED ANY HELP." THEN THE EDITORIALS BEGAN, AND WHILE THEY GRUDINGLY ACCEPTED THE DENIALS, THE LANGUAGE WAS UNACCUSTOMEDLY HARSH.

THE GENERALLY MODERATE DAILY EXPRESS SAID:

"IT IS EQUALLY REGRETTABLE THAT THE SO-CALLED DEVELOPMENT AGENCY HAS SUNK THAT LOW...SEEING NOTHING WRONG IN PROFITING FROM THE MISERY OF A BRUISED AND BATTERED PEOPLE TO PROMOTE ITS POLITICAL DESIGNS...."

AND THE LESS-FRIENDLY TIMES JOURNAL NOTED BITTERLY:

"THE ATTITUDE DEMONSTRATED BY ANDERSON IS TYPICAL OF MANY OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHO ARE INSENSITIVE TO THE FEELINGS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE. TO THEM IT IS POWER AND WEALTH WHICH COMMAND... WHILE THE PHILIPPINES IS GRATEFUL TO THE OTHER NATIONS WHICH HAVE VOLUNTARILY GIVEN AID OUT OF GENUINE SYMPATHY, IT WOULDN'T EXTEND ITS HAND LIKE A MENDICANT, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO CAN OFFER ASSISTANCE ONLY IF THERE ARE 'STRINGS' ATTACHED."

WHILE THE GENERALLY BALANCED BULLETIN TODAY DID NOT COMMENT EDITORIALY, ITS TWO LEAD COLUMNISTS, JESS BIGORNIA AND POL BATALLA DECRIED THE MEMO, IF IN SOMEWHAT LESS STRIDENT TERMS. THE EXPRESS RAN A SECOND EDITORIAL IN THE SAME VEIN ON TUESDAY WHILE ITS ACID-TONGUED COLUMNIST TEODORO VALENCIA HARPED ON THE ISSUE DAILY, FINDING NEW ANGLES TO SUIT HIS MOOD AND INVENTING "FACTS" WHERE NEEDED.

WITH SENATOR MANSFIELD'S SPEECH AND RESOLUTION, THE MOOD CHANGED PERCEPTIBLY, WITH ALL PAPERS GIVING THE SPEECH PROMINENT FRONT PAGE PLAY, AND THE TIMES JOURNAL ACCORDING IT A BANNER HEAD: "MANSFIELD HITS U.S. AID WITH STRINGS".

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POST-MANSFIELD, THE JOURNAL'S EDIT WRITERS CHANGED THEIR TUNE: "...THE RESOLUTION IS IMPORTANT INsofar AS IT CONCERNS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE IT DEFINES THE TRUE CONCEPT OR MEANING OF THE CONTEMPLATED U.S. AID." QUOTING THE SENATOR EXTENSIVELY, THE JOURNAL CONCLUDED: "THE APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION IS EXPECTED TO RELIEVE RUFFLED FEELINGS THAT THE ANDERSON SUGGESTION MIGHT HAVE CAUSED AMONG OUR PEOPLE." EVEN VALENCIA WAS

MOVED TO WARM WORDS FOR SENATOR MANSFIELD AND CARRIED EXTENSIVE QUOTES FROM THE SPEECH, PLACING MUCH OF THE BLAME FOR THE FLAP ON ANTI-MARCOS FILIPINOS WHO LEAKED THE MEMO TO TRY TO STOP U.S. AID.

SELF-RELIANCE IS THE WATCHWORD IN THE MINDANAO CLEANUP, AND WHILE THE MEDIA HAVE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED OFFERS OF HELP FROM COUNTRIES LIKE THE PRC, THEY HAVE WAXED MOST POETIC OVER THE WAY THE NATION HAS PULLED TOGETHER TO HELP ITSELF.

## 2. TROUBLE ON THE DMZ

THE INCIDENT ON THE DMZ IN KOREA RECEIVED HEAVY NEWSPLAY, BUT LIGHT COMMENTARY, DURING THE WEEK.

A SHORT EDITORIAL IN THE BULLETIN TODAY, WHICH BLAMED NEITHER SIDE, SET THE TONE IN SAYING THAT THIS "IS NOT THE TIME FOR ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER TO TAKE SOME ACTION THAT WILL ENCOURAGE WAR." THE TIMES JOURNAL LABELED THE NORTH KOREAN STANCE AS BELLIGERENT AND RECOUNTED THE REPEATED EFFORTS OF SOUTH KOREA TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. BULLETIN COLUMNIST "POL" BATALLA WENT INTO MUCH MORE DETAIL ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS MOTIVATING THE NORTH AND WAS MORE EXPLICIT IN BLAMING THEM FOR THE PROVOCATION.

THE ANTI-U.S. EVENING POST WAS ALONE IN AN EDITORIAL CASTING DOUBT ON WHICH SIDE CREATED THE PROVOCATION AND IN SAYING THAT, "THE OVERREACTION OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS PERILOUSLY MOVED CLOSE TO TOUCHING OFF ANOTHER ROUND OF THE KOREAN WAR, APPEARS TO BE A DISSERVICE TO THE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE..."

## 3. ECONOMIC/BASE TALKS LINKED

IN A PIECE SPECULATING THAT BOTH THE ECONOMIC TALKS AND THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN ANTICIPATION OF U.S. ELECTIONS, BULLETIN COLUMNIST JESUS BIGORNIA BECAME THE FIRST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERIOUS COLUMNIST RECENTLY TO LINK THE TWO CONCURRENT NEGOTIATIONS.

WRITING OF THE PHILIPPINES' DESIRE FOR PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS OF COCONUT OIL AND MAHOGANY EXPORTS, HE CONCLUDES:

"THE U.S. IS IN NO POSITION TO HOLD OUT ON THESE PARTICULAR PROPOSALS IF IT WOULD RETAIN THE BASES AT CLARK AND SUBIC FOR A CERTAIN SPECIFIED PERIOD. IN THE LONG RUN AMERICANS WOULD RATHER HAVE A STABLE AND STRONG NATION IN TERRITORIES WHERE AMERICAN BASES ARE MAINTAINED AND OPERATED."

## 4. GRANADA'S VENDETTA

AND TIMES JOURNAL COLUMNIST ERNIE GRANADA KEPT UP HIS BARRAGE AT AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN. OVER THE WEEKEND HE DEVOTED THREE PARAGRAPHS TO DENOUNCING THE AMBASSADOR FOR LISTENING TOO MUCH TO "THE OPPOSITION AND THE DISCARDS OF THE GOVERNMENT". "US AMBASSADORS TO MANILA," HE SAID, "HAVE HAD THEIR INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTIONS. BOHLEN WAS THE COLDEST. MENNEN WILLIAMS WAS THE MOST APPROACHABLE. SULLIVAN IS THE MOST MISINFORMED."

THE KICKER CAME LATER IN THE WEEK, WHEN AFTER INCONSEQUENTIALLY ANALYZING THE ANDERSON MEMO FOR A FEW PARAGRAPHS, GRANADA OFFERED US THIS NON-SEQUITUR: "GENERAL ANDERS WOULD MAKE A FINE REPLACEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN." END LOU  
BEGIN UNCLAS

## II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

1. GREGG SMITH SINGERS--THE PRIVATE VISIT OF THE GREGG SMITH SINGERS PROVIDED A SPENDID BICENTENNIAL EXPERIENCE FOR AUDIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES. THEIR REPERTOIRE IS RICH IN PROGRAM-ORIENTED SELECTIONS AND THE SNGERS--AND SMITH HIMSELF--EXUDE WARMTH ON THE STAGE. VERY EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS. USIS SUPPLIED MEDIA BACKSTOPPING FOR THE GROUP.

2. THE LEADING DAILY BULLETIN, CARRIED OUR EXCLUSIVELY PLACED ITEM, THE IPS-PROVIDED ARTICLE BY JOSEPH HARSCH ENTITLED /WHY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY WON'T SWERVE." END UNCLAS  
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